

[25 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

CATARACT BLINDNESS CONTROL PROJECT

A World Bank Assisted Cataract Blindness Control Project is being implemented in all the districts of Andhra Pradesh to improve Eye Care Services in rural areas. The Projects includes Construction of wards and Operation. Theatre at District Hospitals, Dark Rooms at Primary Health Centres, Supply of equipments. Training of personnel, Grant-in-Aid to NGOs and Public awareness. Village-wise blind registers are being prepared to indentify blind persons for treatment.

Outbreak of Rat Scare

3481. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Another outbreak of rat scare, this time it's leptospirosis", appearing in the Times of India dated 4th August, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) how many people have been affected by the disease in Mumbai, Delhi and other parts of the country, so far; and

(d) what action Government have taken to educate the people about the safeguards against this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Outbreaks of leptospirosis were reported in the months of July-August, 2000 from the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala and Delhi. As per information available, the number of suspected case of leptospirosis and deaths is given in the Statement (*See* below).

The following steps have been taken by the Government to spread awareness about the disease:—

1. Guidelines indicating nature of the disease, its prevention and control have been circulated to all States.
2. Doctors have been sensitized to maintain high degree of vigilance in order to send suspected cases for laboratory confirmation.

3. States have undertaken intensive containment measures like (a) anti-rodent activities; (b) cleanliness drives; (c) house to house surveyas; and (d) anti-vector measures.

Statement

Details of suspected cases and deaths due to Leptospirosis.

State	Suspected Cases	Deaths
Maharashtra (As on 16.8.2000)	505*	12
Gujarat (As on 15.8.2000)	100	14
Kerala (Upto 7.7.2000)	152	13
Delhi	08**	Nil

* Of these 505 cases, 158 are laboratory confirmed cases.

* * None of these 8 cases have been found to be positive for Leptospirosis on laboratory investigation.

NTTCs in Mam College and Jipmer

3482. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Medical Teachers of Teaching Specialist Sub-Cadre of Central Health Service run National Teachers Training Centres at Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi and JIPMER, Pondicherry;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of these training centres; and

(c) how these training centres are different from the similar centres at AIMS, New Delhi and PGI, Chandigarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERM A]: (a) to (c) There are four National Teachers Training Centres located at Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, JIPMER Pondicherry, Institute of Medical Sciences, Varanasi and PGIMER, Chandigarh. The objectives of these training centres are — (i) to promote the training of teachers of Health Profession in Educational Science and Technology, (ii) to promote the development and application of